



Rio is a top-rated seeded bermudagrass variety developed by the Johnston Seed Company. Rio exhibits excellent cold and frost tolerance as well as early spring greenup making it a great choice for not only the southern zone but also areas in the transition zone where bermudagrass is used. Rio germinates quickly and was the #1 NTEP rated variety in establishment. Rio has excellent turf quality and good wear tolerance. Rio is dark green and fine-bladed creating a very dense turf. Rio is drought and heat tolerant and can be used in a number of different applications.

**EXCELLENT TURF
QUALITY**

**SUPERIOR COLD AND
FROST TOLERANCE**

**EARLY SPRING
GREENUP**

**GOOD WEAR
TOLERANCE AND
RECOVERY**

**#1 NTEP RATED FOR
ESTABLISHMENT**

NTEP DATA

	% Establishment ¹	Turf Quality ²	Genetic Color ³	Spring Greenup ³
Rio	92.5	6.2	6.8	5.6
Monaco	91.7	6.3	6.6	5.4
Riviera	89.2	6.3	6.6	5.6
Princess 77	87.5	6.0	6.6	4.1
North Shore SLT	87.5	5.6	6.2	4.3
Yukon	76.7	5.8	6.5	5.0
LSD	8.8	0.3	0.6	0.8

2013-2017 NTEP Seeded Bermudagrass Trial Data; All Ratings 1-9; 9=Best; ¹Lexington, KY; ²Grown at 7 Locations; ³Final Report

SEEDING

Rio should be planted in areas of full sun when soil temperatures reach a consistent 65 F (18 C) and are on the rise. Plant 2-3 lbs/1000 sq ft (1-1.5 kg/100 sq m) in a well-prepared firm seedbed. Cover seed with no more than 1/4 inch (6 mm) of soil. Maintain adequate soil moisture using frequent but light irrigation for optimum germination. Seedlings should emerge in 10-14 days.

MAINTENANCE

Rio can be maintained at mowing heights from 0.4" - 1" (1.3-5 cm). Applying 3-5 lbs of nitrogen per 1000 sq ft (1.5 - 2.5 kg/100 sq m) per growing season is adequate. Do not remove over 1/3 of the leaf blade per mowing for healthy turf. More frequent mowing at shorter heights will result in a finer, more dense turf.

